

Omaha World-Herald
SPORTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
SECTION C



KATY COWELL, LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

Nebraska improved to 3-0 this season after posting a 25-15, 25-23, 23-25, 25-13 win over TCU to wrap up the Ameritas Players Challenge. The Huskers nearly rallied to win the third set, but took over in the fourth to finish off TCU.

HUSKERS SET THINGS RIGHT FOLLOWING ONE CLOSE SET

BRENT C. WAGNER

Lincoln Journal Star

LINCOLN — The Nebraska volleyball team showed it can rally on Saturday after coming up just short of a comeback during the third set.

The Huskers put TCU away for good in the fourth set for a 25-15, 25-23, 23-25, 25-13 win at the Devaney Center during their final match of the Ameritas Players Challenge.

Nebraska improved to 3-0 as it wrapped up the first week of the season.

Sophomore outside hitter Harper Murray led the Huskers with 20 kills — 19 came over the final three sets. She had seven kills in the clinching fourth set.

Lindsay Krause added nine kills, and Merritt Beason had eight kills and two aces.

TCU extended the match by winning the third set 25-23. Nebraska had rallied from deficits of 13-10 and 21-20 to take a 22-21 lead. But TCU won three straight points late when the Huskers had some hitting errors. Alexis Roberson had the

kill on set point.

TCU had a .324 hitting percentage in the third set, when Nebraska didn't record a block.

Melanie Parra, a third-team All-American last season, led TCU with 14 kills, 10 digs and three blocks.

In the fourth set Nebraska got a quick lead of 11-5, got its offense back on track and won the match.

Nebraska was in some early trouble in

Please see NU VOLLEYBALL, Page C4

Beck helps Bulldogs dominate second half

ATLANTA (AP) — Carson Beck threw for 278 yards, including a pair of touchdowns, and No. 1 Georgia opened another season of enormous expectations by stifling 14th-ranked Clemson 34-3 on Saturday.

Leading 6-0 at halftime, Georgia finally got its offense rolling in the third quarter with a pair of 75-yard touchdown drives, capped by Colbie Young's 7-yard reception and Nate Frazier's 1-yard run. Beck tacked on a 40-yard TD pass to London Humphreys that sent the Clemson side of Mercedes-Benz Stadium heading for the exits.

Clemson was held to 188 yards and Nolan Hauser's 26-yard field goal.

"To me, it feels like a playoff game," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "It's a great way to try to assess where you are as a team. No longer do you have to win every game (because of the expanded



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Georgia quarterback Carson Beck threw for 278 yards, including a pair of touchdowns, as the No. 1 Bulldogs took control on both sides of the ball after leading Clemson 6-0 at halftime.

Please see GEORGIA, Page C9

VOLLEYBALL: NO. 12 CU DEF. MISSOURI 25-21, 25-23, 25-18

Another day and another sweep as CU rolls to win

MIKE PATTERSON
World-Herald Staff Writer

Two matches, two sweeps. The volleyball season is off to a solid start for 12th-ranked Creighton.

Coach Kirsten Bernthal Booth's squad rolled to a 25-21, 25-23, 25-18 victory over Missouri on Saturday night in the Bluejay Invitational. A crowd of 2,337 looked on at Sokol Arena.

The Bluejays began the tourney Friday night by defeating North Carolina State in three sets.

"I thought it was a great match of two really good teams," Booth said. "I liked our demeanor in set one and set two and also in set three."

The coach said she was pleased to see her team finish off the Tigers and not allow them to get back into the match.

"I think in that situation if you come out strong, sometimes a

Please see CU VOLLEYBALL, Page C4

VOTING BEGINS FOR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

 The nominees for the first OrthoNebraska Athlete of the Week are here. Check out what each athlete accomplished in the past seven days, then submit your vote for this week's winner.

Oakland-Craig quarterback Braylon Anderson was 17 of 24 for 448 yards and three touchdowns — 287 yards and two scores going to Corbin Guill — as the sixth-ranked team in Class C-2 opened with a 34-14 win over Yutan.

Setter Meghan Anderson of Omaha Skutt went over the 1,000 mark in career assists and had 29 in the SkyHawks' win over Papio South.

Hampton's Jack Bullis scored eight touchdowns to help his team beat Lincoln Parkview 72-28.

Papillion-La Vista's Isaac Pamaron had a touchdown run in the second quarter then reached the end zone again on a 75-yard punt return to provide the winning margin in a 29-24 victory over Papillion-La Vista South.

Arlington's Tessa Spivey tossed a no-hitter with 20 strikeouts in a 4-0 win over Ponca.

Vote for your pick at go.omaha.com/athlete or by scanning this QR code.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Arizona power pulls away in second half from Patriots

STU POSPISIL

World-Herald Staff Writer

Preseason Nebraska No. 1 Millard South trailed Chandler (Ariz.) Basha by two points in the third quarter.

Then the hosts, ranked No. 68 nationally, validated that rating by scoring on their next three possessions.

The Bears dealt Millard South a 39-25 loss Friday night in the season opener for both teams.

Millard South led once, at 7-6 on a short run by Gabe Prucha midway through the second quarter. The Patriots then gave up the next two scores to trail 19-7 at halftime.

They cut the deficit with Jett Thomalla's short touchdown pass to tight end Isaac Jensen and a 23-yard field goal by Trenton Van

Please see HIGH SCHOOL, Page C9

BRIEFLY

BASEBALL

Devanney perfect at plate for Chasers

Cam Devanney was 4 for 4 with six RBIs to lead Omaha to a 9-1 win over St. Paul on Saturday night.

Devanney had three doubles as the Storm Chasers (80-49) totaled 17 hits. After Nate Eaton's RBI double put the Chasers ahead 1-0 in the first, Devanney drove in Devin Mann with a ground-rule double in the second.

With runners on second and third and two outs in the fourth, he singled home two runs for a 4-0 lead. He drove in three more in the eighth.

John Rave hit a two-run home run for Omaha, and left-hander Noah Cameron struck out 10 in seven innings, allowing one run on five hits.

The Chasers wrap up the series Sunday at 2:05 p.m.

St. Paul (62-68) 000 010 000-1 5 1
At Omaha (80-49) 110 200 23X-9 17 0

W: Cameron, 2-1. L: Rozek, 0-5. 2B: O. Eaton, Mann, Devanney 3. HR: SP, Winkel (6). 0, Rave (19).

TENNIS

Mount Michael wins invitational title

Elkhorn Mount Michael won three of the four divisions to claim the team title at the season-opener Elkhorn boys tennis invitational on Saturday.

Mount Michael finished with 47 points, while Waverly was next with 38. Elkhorn placed third with 32.

Senior Ian Scott, playing in his first tournament for Mount Michael, outlasted Waverly's Grey Klucas 9-7 for the No. 1 singles title. Mount Michael also won both doubles titles, defeating Elkhorn in the finals.

Waverly's Royce Klucas earned an 8-4 win over Mount Michael's John Krueger in the 2 singles final.

Team scores: Elkhorn Mount Michael 47, Waverly 38, Elkhorn 32, Lincoln Standing Bear 29, Gretna 26, Omaha Skutt 26, Beatrice 12, Omaha Roncalli 6.

No. 1 singles: 1. Ian Scott, EMM, def. Grey Klucas, Wav, 9-7, 3. Jack Holbrook, OS, def. Charlie Graff, LNB. **No. 2 singles:** 1. Royce Klucas, Wav, def. John Krueger, EMM, 8-4, 3. Sam Cooper, LSB, def. Will Tupper, OS, 8-3. **No. 1 doubles:** 1. Noah Stricklett-Patrick Killeen, EMM, def. Brody Brummett-Jack Fry, Elkhorn, 8-2, 3. Chase McInerney-Isaac Clarke, Wav, def. Owen Dickey-Emmitt Dickens, Gretna, 8-6. **No. 2 doubles:** 1. Peter Killeen-Connor Chen, EMM, def. Max Beard-DeShawn Striplin, Elkhorn, 8-3, 3. Lucas Hack-Abe Isaacson, Gretna, def. Zach Balfany-Graham Wilkinsin, LSB, 9-7.

FOOTBALL

49ers rookie shot

SAN FRANCISCO — 49ers wide receiver Ricky Pearsall was shot Saturday during an attempted robbery in central San Francisco, city authorities said.

Mayor London Breed said in a post on the social platform X that Pearsall was shot in Union Square. She did not immediately provide details about his condition.

"My thoughts are with Ricky and his family at this time," Breed said.

San Francisco police said in a statement that Pearsall was injured while being robbed, and so was the suspect. Both were taken to the hospital, the statement said. Police did not return calls seeking further information.

A message was left for a spokesperson for the team. "He's good," 49ers teammate Deebo Samuel posted on X. "Thank god!!!!"

Pearsall, 23, was drafted in the first round in April by the 49ers with the 31st overall pick but has been slowed by injuries since joining the team.

Helmet QR codes blocked by NCAA

STILLWATER, Okla. — The NCAA blocked Oklahoma State from placing QR codes on its players' helmets, a move that would have allowed fans to link to a team fund and donate to the program's name, image and likeness money pool, the school announced before Saturday's game against South Dakota State.

"Oklahoma State interprets the QR code stickers as institutional decals permitted under NCAA bylaws," the university said in a news release. "The NCAA interprets the QR code stickers as advertising and/or commercial marks, which are not permitted."

The QR codes will not appear on the Cowboys' helmets, but they will be placed in larger and more prominent locations throughout Boone Pickens Stadium, including the 6,160-square foot video board, according to the news release.

VOLLEYBALL: WYOMING DEF. UNO DEF. 25-23, 25-18, 31-29

Mavs fight to the end but can't avoid sweep

GENE SCHINZEL
World-Herald Staff Writer

UNO held off five match points Saturday afternoon, but eventually Wyoming won a third-set battle to close out a 25-23, 25-18, 31-29 win over the Mavericks at Baxter Arena.

Wyoming used long runs throughout the match to play from in front as the Cowgirls improved to 2-0 at the Omaha Invitational.

"We just had some breakdowns on our side," UNO coach Matt Buttermore said. "We didn't put a lot of pressure on them."

UNO played its most consistent in the third set when it led most

of the way. Wyoming took its first lead in the third set at 21-20 and had its first match point at 24-23.

UNO answered each time the Cowgirls had match point, and the Mavs had a set point of their own at 29-28. But Wyoming won the next three points to close out the victory.

UNO nearly grabbed momentum in the first set with its own comeback.

Wyoming built a 17-10 lead, but UNO put together an 11-2 run capped by a Brynlee Arnold kill for a 20-19 lead. But Wyoming won five of the top six rallies on its way to the early lead.

Buttermore said his team didn't

respond well in the second set as the Cowgirls finished with a 9-3 run.

"We came out flat and credit to Wyoming, they didn't," Buttermore said. "That was the difference."

UNO had four players with double-digit kills against Houston on Friday, but the leader Saturday was Kali Jurgensmeier with eight. UNO was outhit .242 to .107.

UNO will face Washington State in its final match of the season-opening tournament. Both teams are 0-2 as Houston defeated Washington State in four sets Saturday. Houston outlasted UNO in five sets Friday.

Buttermore said the Mavs will need to block better and play better in transition against Washington State.

Wyoming (2-0) 25 25 31
At UNO (0-2) 23 18 29

Wyoming (kills-aces-blocks): Holcomb 7-0-4, Grizzle 0-4, Milby 8-0-2, Winter 9-0-2, Mazzocca 7-2-2, Lauterwasser 5-1-4, Partyka 3-2-1. Totals 39-9-14.

UNO: Owens 0-2-0, Jurgensmeier 8-0-0, Ruch 7-0-4, Arnold 5-0-2, Schaefer 0-1-0, Hardt 6-0-0, McCormick 5-4-2, Fava 0-2-0, Spilker 2-0-0. Totals 33-9-8.

Assists: Wy 38 (Partyka 30, Grizzle 4, Erickson 2, Rivera 1, Lauterwasser 1)
UNO 31 (Leuck 18, Owens 12, Fava 1). Digs: Wy 40 (Grizzle 11, Partyka 10, Erickson 5, Lauterwasser 5, Rivera 4, Milby 2, Winter 2, Mazzocca 1)

UNO 40 (Fava 11, McCormick 10, Leuck 8, Schaefer 4, Jurgensmeier 4, Hardt 2, Owens 1).

gschinzel@owh.com, 402-444-1038, twitter.com/GeneOWH

Major League Baseball
AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
79	57	.581	—
78	59	.569	1 1/2
70	66	.515	9
67	68	.496	11 1/2
67	71	.486	13

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
77	59	.566	—
75	62	.547	2 1/2
73	62	.541	3 1/2
69	68	.504	8 1/2
31	106	.226	46 1/2

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
74	62	.544	—
69	67	.507	5
64	72	.471	10
59	77	.434	15
56	80	.412	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
80	56	.588	—
74	62	.544	6
72	64	.529	8
61	75	.449	19
50	86	.368	30

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
80	56	.588	—
70	66	.515	10
68	68	.500	12
64	73	.467	16 1/2
63	72	.467	16 1/2

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
82	54	.603	—
76	60	.559	6
77	61	.558	6
68	69	.496	14 1/2
51	86	.372	31 1/2

Saturday

American League

Interleague			
St. Louis	Mikolas 8-10	N.Y. Yankees	Cortes 8-10
12:35 p.m.			
Miami (TBD)	at San Francisco (Webb 11-8), 3:05 p.m.		
Los Angeles (TBD)	at Arizona (Pfaadt 8-7), 3:10 p.m.		
Atlanta (Schwellaebach 5-6)	at Philadelphia (Nola 12-6), 6:10 p.m.		

National League

National League			
Chicago	5, Washington 3	Philadelphia 0, Atlanta 0	St. Louis 2, New York 1

</tbl